

20 August 1947

**SECRET**

**MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF PLANS**

**Subject: Estimates for Fiscal Year 1949**

*Budget  
OKC*

We have consulted with the Budget Officer and suggest that instructions in Paragraph 5 /sub-paragraphs a through d/ of Central Intelligence Memorandum No. 52, of 28 July 1947, be responded to as follows:

**Statement of Authorization.**

Functions and activities of Office of Special Operations are established by TOP SECRET directives from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Assistant Director of Special Operations.

**Statement of Functions and Activities.**

The Office of Special Operations, under directives of the Director of Central Intelligence, collects, evaluates as to source, and processes foreign intelligence and makes disseminations thereof to policy-making branches of the Government and other intelligence customers; plans, establishes and operates systems of specialized intelligence communications; provides indoctrination and basic intelligence training for headquarters and field personnel and performs such other functions of common concern to the Government as the Director may designate.

**Statement of Coordination.**

The Office of Special Operations, as the Secret Intelligence Organization of the United States Government in foreign fields, is a semi-autonomous unit within the Central Intelligence Group and operating relationships with other units of CIG and with other Departments and Agencies of the Government are controlled directly by the Assistant Director of Special Operations, under the specific direction of the Director, CIG.

**SECRET**

Memo for Chief Plans

-2-

20 August 1947

**SECRET**

Statement of Objectives.

The objectives of the Office of Special Operations are to perform for other Departments and Agencies of the Government, such functions in the field of foreign intelligence as cannot be performed by them, or may be more efficiently performed centrally, and to supplement the overt intelligence activities of other intelligence agencies in such manner as to give the fullest possible information on foreign affairs to policy-making branches of the Government. Its specific objectives vary from time to time with the needs of the various customers as determined by the Director of Central Intelligence. Achievements of the Office of Special Operations are measurable not by the quantity of the intelligence produced but by the extent to which its operations serve to complete the national intelligence mission of the Central Intelligence Group.

LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON  
General Counsel

Note:

The organizational and functional charts should be combined in a T.O. chart showing the major breakdown of OSO in a form consistent with the information set forth above and without any area breakdown or detailed indication of individual office functions. This chart should be so general that the flow chart called for by Memo. No. 52, would be useless. General liaison and flow can be shown on the Organization Chart.

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